

## What is Claimed:

1                   1.     A head harness for supporting a night vision device, said  
2 head harness comprising:

3                   a frame assembly; and

4                   padding coupled to said frame assembly, said padding being  
5 configured to contact at least one of a forehead and a cheek of the face of a  
6 user of the head harness.

1                   2.     The head harness of claim 1 wherein said padding is  
2 coupled to said frame assembly using at least one snap fastener.

1                   3.     The head harness of claim 1 wherein said padding  
2 includes sheepskin leather provided around an interior including foam.

1                   4.     The head harness of claim 1 wherein said padding  
2 includes a plurality of pads coupled together.

1                   5.     The head harness of claim 4 wherein said pads are  
2 coupled together by a webbing material.

1                   6.     The head harness of claim 1 wherein said padding  
2 includes forehead padding and cheek padding separated by an opening  
3 positioned for receiving a portion of eyewear worn by a user of the head  
4 harness.

1                   7.     A head harness for supporting a night vision device, said  
2 head harness comprising:

3                   a frame assembly including a plurality of frame members; and

4                   at least one hinge providing hinged interconnection between said  
5 plurality of frame members such that the head harness may be compacted  
6 through operation of the hinged interconnection.

1                   8.     The head harness of claim 7 wherein said frame assembly  
2 includes three of said frame members and two of said hinge such that each of  
3 said frame members is coupled to another of said frame members through  
4 one of said hinges.

1                   9.     The head harness of claim 8 wherein a centrally  
2 positioned one of said frame members includes a mounting assembly for  
3 mounting a night vision system to said frame assembly.

1                   10.    A head harness for supporting a night vision device, said  
2 head harness comprising:

3                         a frame assembly; and

4                         a pad assembly coupled to said frame assembly configured to  
5 contact a lower rear portion of a user's head when the user wears the head  
6 harness, said pad assembly including a netting material.

1                   11.    The head harness of claim 10 wherein said pad assembly  
2 is coupled to said frame assembly via at least one strap.

1                   12.    A head harness for supporting a night vision device, said  
2 head harness comprising:

3                         a frame assembly; and

4                         a plurality of straps configured to be coupled to said frame  
5 assembly using snap fasteners, said straps being adjustable by a user of the  
6 head harness.

1                   13.    The head harness of claim 12 wherein said plurality of  
2 straps includes a vertical strap for extending over a user's head, an upper  
3 side strap configured to be coupled to two end portions of said frame  
4 assembly, and a lower side strap configured to be coupled to said two end  
5 portions of said frame assembly.

1                   14.    The head harness of claim 13 wherein a first mating  
2   portion of a snap fastener of at least one of said upper and said lower side  
3   strap are configured to be coupled to one of a plurality of second mating  
4   portions of the snap fastener on said frame assembly such that a position of  
5   said at least one of said upper and said lower side strap is adjustable.

1                   15.    The head harness of claim 13 wherein said lower strap is  
2   configured to be coupled to either of said frame assembly or a chincup  
3   assembly.

1                   16.    The head harness of claim 15 wherein said chincup  
2   assembly includes a sheepskin leather covering for contacting the skin of a  
3   user.

1                   17.    The head harness of claim 15 wherein said chincup  
2   assembly is symmetric about at least one of a vertical and a horizontal axis.

1                   18.    The head harness of claim 12 wherein each of said straps  
2   includes a self locking buckle mechanism for locking a position each of said  
3   straps upon adjustment by the user.

1                   19.    The head harness of claim 12 wherein at least one of said  
2   straps includes a quick release mechanism such that the head harness is  
3   configured to be loosened for removal upon the user operating the quick  
4   release mechanism.

1                   20.    The head harness of claim 19 wherein said quick release  
2   mechanism is included on a left side of said lower side strap.

1                   21.    The head harness of claim 12 wherein at least one of said  
2   straps includes a first mating portion of a snap fastener, said frame assembly  
3   including a plurality of second mating portions of the snap fastener, said first  
4   mating portion being configured to be mated with any of said second mating  
5   portions such that a position of said at least one of said straps may be  
6   adjusted by changing the second mating portion to which the respective first  
7   mating portion is mated.

1                   22. The head harness of claim 12 wherein at least one of said  
2 straps includes a first mating portion of a snap fastener, and said frame  
3 assembly includes a plurality of second mating portions of the snap fastener,  
4 said first mating portion of said at least one of said straps being configured to  
5 be mated with any of said second mating portions such that a position of said  
6 at least one of said straps may be adjusted by changing the second mating  
7 portion to which said first mating portion is mated, wherein said head  
8 harness optionally includes a chincup by mating said first mating portion with  
9 a second mating portion of a snap fastener included on said chincup as  
10 opposed to a second mating portion of said frame assembly.

1                   23. A head harness for supporting a night vision device, said  
2 head harness comprising:

3                   a frame assembly; and

4                   a protective pad coupled to said frame assembly and positioned  
5 to protect a user's head from contact with the night vision device or a night  
6 vision device mount coupled to the frame assembly upon the night vision  
7 device being pivoted from a first position in front of the user's line of sight to  
8 a second position above a user's head.

1                   24. The head harness of claim 23 wherein said protective pad  
2 includes a solid composite material.

1                   25. A head harness for supporting a night vision device, said  
2 head harness comprising:

3                   a frame assembly; and

4                   a mounting assembly coupled to said frame assembly for  
5 mounting a night vision device to said frame assembly,

6                   said frame assembly being curved inward from a center portion  
7 towards two ends portions such that when a user wears the head harness,  
8 the inwardly curved end portions extend toward a face of the user.

1                   26. The head harness of claim 25 additionally comprising  
2 padding coupled to at least one of said center portion and said end portions  
3 such that said padding contacts the face of the user when the user wears the  
4 head harness.

1                   27. The head harness of claim 25 wherein said padding is  
2 configured to contact at least one of a forehead and a cheek of the face of  
3 the user when the user wears the head harness.

1                   28. The head harness of claim 25 wherein said frame  
2 assembly is curved downward from said center portion towards said end  
3 portions.

1                   29. The head harness of claim 25 wherein said frame assembly  
2 including a plurality of frame members, and said head harness additionally  
3 comprises at least one hinge providing hinged interconnection between said  
4 plurality of frame members such that the head harness may be compacted  
5 through operation of the hinged interconnection